

## **A note from Councilman James on Landmark Preservation...**

As you may know, I am co-sponsoring legislation that was recently filed at the Metro Council to amend the current rules governing Landmarked property and Preservation Districts. As Metro Councilman for a district that includes many of the most cherished architectural and historic treasures in the city, I see in this legislation the opportunity to solidify the strengths of the preservation process while minimizing its weaknesses. Anyone taking a drive through Old Louisville can see countless examples of successful efforts to preserve and protect our beautiful historic properties. But those of us familiar with the neighborhood can also point to examples where the preservation of property has needlessly lessened the rights of owners and stifled much-needed economic development.

The [current legislation](#) offers some compelling improvements to the important process of historic designation. It includes a requirement that 51% of the citizens requesting a preservation district or a landmarked property be property owners or residents within a mile of the property, thus increasing the influence of the surrounding neighborhood and those impacted most by the proposed change. It also requires Metro Council approval of any request for landmarked property, similar to those for rezoned properties in Louisville. I have already worked with the other sponsors to amend the original ordinance to ensure all residents of the area, including those who rent, have a voice and smaller areas requesting to be landmarked have the opportunity to be heard ([click here](#) to see the amendment). In addition, we have tabled this legislation until further notice to allow for additional public dialogue to occur.

I believe in the fundamental issues of personal property rights and uniformity in the Metro Government planning process that are being addressed as part of this bill. I also believe that community input will serve as our strongest resource as improvements are made to the legislation in coming weeks. Please contact my office at 574-1106 or email me directly at [david.james@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:david.james@louisvilleky.gov) to make your voice heard.

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David A. James". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

**Councilman David James  
Louisville Metro Council**